

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure, with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention pertains to novel insecticidal compounds derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains. ~~New proteins designated~~ Nucleotide sequences encoding a Cry2Ae protein ~~[[,]] Cry2Af, and Cry2Ag,~~ and variants thereof are provided~~[[,]] as well as DNA sequences encoding these proteins or their variants.~~ Further provided are recombinant hosts expressing such proteins, particularly plant cells, ~~[[and]]~~ plants and seeds and methods of using the recombinant hosts for controlling insects, particularly Lepidoptera.